

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation****Federal Tax ID: 90-0699180****Project Title:****Project Type: Planning and Research**

Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation - Susitna Valley Winter Trail - Alaska Long Trail

State Funding Requested: \$100,000**House District: 8 / D**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

This project will help better connect and maintain a quality public motorized winter braid route for the Alaska Long Trail in Susitna Valley between Big Lake and Trapper Creek.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$100,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2023 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$100,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

This project will help better connect and maintain a quality public WINTER trail in Susitna Valley between Big Lake and the Petersville Road/Trapper Creek area trail systems, providing improved options and expanded capacity for maintenance for snow season travel by snowmachine, dog sled, fat tire bike or skis. As a result of hard work by underpaid local volunteer organizations, well-developed winter trail systems currently exist in Big Lake, Willow, and the Petersville Road area. Work has also been done to create a north-south route connecting these trail systems.

Building on earlier planning work, funding for this project would bring together the users/user groups in this area to further improve these connections. A primary goal will be to develop solutions to the currently limited capacity for trail maintenance and search and rescue activities. Current funding for these critical needs barely covers existing use, and needs are certain to grow with the continuing expansion of winter activities in Alaska. Solutions include a combination of physical improvements and equipment, education of users to help bring in more funding through the State's SnowTRAC program, and collaboration to maximize federal funds, for example the federal Recreational Trails Program. This project will set the stage for a quality, safe and well maintained motorized winter braid route of the Alaska Long Trail in Susitna Valley on the west side of the Parks Highway between Big Lake and Trapper Creek.

Project Timeline:

2023

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Mat-Su Trails and Parks Foundation, user groups, Mat-Su Borough

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☐ Yes ☒ No